



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Paducah Middle School Student Wins EEC's Earth Day Photography Contest *'Theme is Celebrating Kentucky's Forests'*

Frankfort, Ky. (April 30, 2012) –Emily Hahn, 13, of Paducah Middle School has been chosen as the 2012 "Capture the Earth" Digital Photography Contest winner. The contest is sponsored each year by the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) as a way to focus students' attention on Earth Day.

The photography contest required Kentucky middle school students to submit an original photograph, along with a paragraph explaining why the photo represents Kentucky's 2012 Earth Day theme of "Celebrating Kentucky's Forests." This year's theme coincides with the 100th anniversary of the state Division of Forestry.

Emily's picture shows a lone standing tree, photographed vertically in black and white, that survived the devastating ice storm of 2009. "The Greenway Trail is a fairly new trail off of our local Bob Noble Park," she wrote. "Many people, like myself, go there to admire the beauty of the trees....the tree is lucky to be standing because many trees around our area collapsed due to the amount of ice that built up on them."

Other students to be recognized with certificates include:

- Second place – Nate Simpson, 12, Bondurant Middle School, Franklin County
- Third place – Emma Rogers, 12, Royal Springs Middle School, Scott County
- Honorable Mention – Jade Hammontree, 13, Metcalfe County Middle School
- Honorable Mention – Ann Postolowski, 14, Gray Middle School, Boone County

"The annual photography contest is a way to get kids to connect with nature, to discover the beauty of our state and to think about their role in preservation, sustainability and conservation," said EEC Secretary Len Peters.

As the winning photographer, Emily and her family will receive two nights lodging at any Kentucky State Resort Park, compliments of the Kentucky Department of Parks.

Student photographs may be viewed on the Energy and Environment Cabinet's website at <http://eec.ky.gov/Pages/earthday.aspx>.

The EEC will again sponsor the photography contest for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year. Middle school students can take advantage of the growing season and warm weather this summer by taking nature pictures to have ready for the next competition.

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